

January 12, 1984

Index Tape 1/A

1:40 She was born in Shanghai, China in 1931 of Korean parents. Her parents left North Korea after the Japanese took control because they were limited in business and practice of their Christian faith.

3:00 She recalled her schooling days and also having learned Chinese (through friends), Japanese (in school), and Korean (at home). She also recalled a Korean language school, church and a sizable Korean settlement there in Shanghai as well as the provisional Korean Government (in exile).

5:00 The family returned back to North Korea after WW II. There she had to learn how to read and write the Korean language.

8:00 When they reach North Korean, they were shocked because there was no food and nothing was available. So they decided to move to Manchuria until the war ended. When they returned to North Korea after the war, they found that living conditions were difficult because of communist influences, so the family moved to the South.

10:00 During the Korean War their family lost everything including the house. The route south out of Seoul, Korea was blocked by the North Korean Army so they escaped into the mountain which took one week to reach on foot.

13:00 After she finished her education she began teaching. Seoul was still not completely rebuilt. She recalled teaching 100 high school students under a large tent. This situation lasted until the 1960's.

14:00 She met her future husband when she was in college. Her husband was going the medical school while she was attending the college. Later her future husband came to America to further his education. It was then that he decided there was no future for psychiatry in Korea and so he sent for her and the decision to stay in America was made in 1962.

17:00 She also worked with orphaned Korean teenagers prior to coming to America. She worked with some 300 of them and tried to provide them an education.

20:00 They have two boys, both born in Vacaville, California. Korean language was the home language. Although English became the dominant language, the boys have started to relearn the Korean language at the Korean language school in Sacramento which started in 1975 at the Fremont Presbyterian Church and continues to the present.

23:00 When the language school first started, there were about 30 students now there are about 80 who attend for three hours every Sunday. They learn language, culture, Tae Kwan Do, history, calligraphy, folk dances, and folk songs.

25:00 Comments on future trends among the young Christian Koreans and their tendency to associate with other Asians through the church.

27:00 Role of the Korean women in the Korean church and the difficulty of Korean women to achieve respect and position of power within the church.

Index Tape 1/B

1:00 Reflects on the problems of Korean women who married American servicemen after the Korean War. Problems: cultural adjustment, language, in-laws, communication problems with other Koreans because of educational background and general isolation.

2:30 She helped start a program in Sacramento which was aimed specifically at the Asian Woman who married American servicemen (Program was called Foreignborn wives of American servicemen).

6:30 Some of the new immigrants come to the United States because of political repression but more come because American is still viewed as the land of economic opportunity.

7:00 She feels in the future, more Korean women will become active in the Korean church and may even become ministers.

9:00 The national Presbyterians are becoming more aware of the special needs of the Korean population.

11:00 Role of the Korean church in the Korean American community. Religious and social outpost for the new comer Koreans. Also plays the role of extended family and employment centers.

16:00 Talks about the growth of the Korean businesses in Sacramento.